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AP200604215370 21 APR 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Taturoh KATOH et al.

Attorney Docket Number: 107443-00045

Serial Number: NEW PATENT APPLICATION

Filed: April 24, 2006

For: STAGE DEVICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop PCT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: April 24, 2006

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the information items listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each item is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the items be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application, OR (c) accompanies a Request for Continued Examination. No certification or fee is required.
- 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.
- a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).

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c. Check number in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket Number , as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

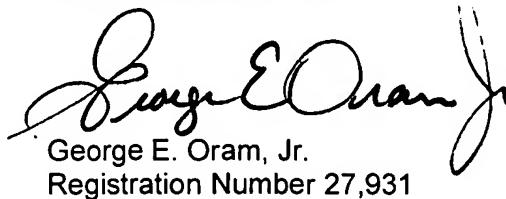
3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Applicants hereby petition that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Attached is our check number in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the petition fee under 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket Number , as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).

b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).

4. Three of the references are cited in counterpart foreign application PCT/JP2004/015276, filed October 15, 2004. An English language version of the International Search Report is attached for the Examiner's information. The relevance of two of the non-English language references is discussed in the present specification. English-language Abstracts of the non-English language references are attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: PTO/SB/08a
International Search Report
References (5)
TECH/414389.1

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
Form PTO/SB/08a

Sheet 1 of 1

Application Number	NEW PATENT APPLICATION
Filing Date	April 24, 2006
First Named Inventor	Taturoh KATOH 100722
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attala Filing Number	105410-00015

Sheet 1 of 1 Attorney Docket Number 107443-00045

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code. ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached. AB indicates that only an English language abstract is attached.